### J. BENNETT WHITE, P.C.

Post Office Box 7339

Tyler, Texas 75711

Telephone: 903-509-5000 Telecopier: 903-509-5094

J. BENNETT WHITE State Bar No. 21309800

#### ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTOR

## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AMARILLO DIVISION

In re:	§	
	§	
CNOSSEN DAIRY	§	Case No. 10-20760-rlj-11
	§	
	§	
Debtor.	<b>§</b>	
	§	

# EMERGENCY MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO USE CASH COLLATERAL AND REQUEST FOR FINAL HEARING THEREON

### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE:

Cnossen Dairy, Debtor-in-Possession, file this Emergency Motion for Authority to Use Cash Collateral and Request for Final Hearing Thereon ("Motion") and would show the Court as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. On November 12, 2010, Cnossen Dairy filed a Voluntary Petition for Relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code. Cnossen Dairy remains in possession of the property and property of the Estate.

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2. The Court has jurisdiction over this Motion pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §363, 28

U.S.C. §157(b)(2)(M), the proceedings being governed by Bankruptcy Rules 4001(b) and 9014.

**BACKGROUND** 

3. Cnossen Dairy operates a dairy ("the Dairy") near Hereford, Deaf Smith

County, Texas. It consists of approximately 15,000 head of cattle, plus the fixtures and

equipment and some of the land used in connection therewith.

WELLS FARGO

4. The Cnossen Dairy's largest creditor and main lender is Wells Fargo Bank,

N.A. ("Wells Fargo"). Cnossen Dairy's affiliates include the Cnossen Family Partnership

("CFP") and UC Farms, LLC ("UC Farms"). In addition to the indebtedness owed by Cnossen

Dairy to Wells Fargo, Cnossen Dairy has guaranteed certain indebtednesses of both CFP and UC

Farms to Wells Fargo. Likewise, CFP and UC Farms have guaranteed the indebtedness of

Cnossen Dairy to Wells Fargo. In conjunction with these transactions, the parties have executed

the following instruments:

A. On or about January 3, 2007, Wells Fargo entered into a Credit Agreement with

Cnossen Dairy as borrower, which the parties amended from time to time thereafter (as

amended, the "CD Credit Agreement"). Pursuant to the terms of the CD Credit

Agreement, Wells Fargo provided lines of credit and other financial accommodations to

Cnossen Dairy in the aggregate original principal amount of \$25,000,000 which were

most recently evidenced by Revolving Line of Credit Notes dated April 1, 2009 and

December 15, 2009 in the respective principal amounts of \$8,000,000 and \$15,000,000,

and a Loan Commitment Note dated May 13, 2010 in the original principal amount of

\$2,000,000 (collectively, the "*CD Notes*").

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B. On or about March 28, 2007, Wells Fargo entered into a Credit Agreement with

CFP as borrower (as amended, the "CFP Credit Agreement"). Pursuant to the CFP

Credit Agreement, Wells Fargo made loans and extended other financial

accommodations to CFP, which were most recently evidenced by a May 13, 2010 Loan

Commitment Note in the original principal amount of \$1,500,000 (the "CFP Note").

C. On or about July 15, 2008, Wells Fargo entered into a Letter Credit Agreement

with UC Farms as borrower (the "UC Farms Credit Agreement", and collectively with

the CD Credit Agreement and the CFP Credit Agreement, the "Credit Agreements").

Pursuant to the UC Farms Credit Agreement, Wells Fargo provided lines of credit and

other financial accommodations to UC Farms, most recently evidenced by a Revolving

Line of Credit Note dated May 13, 2010 in the original principal amount of

\$442,217.34 (the "UC Farms Note", and collectively with the CD Notes and the CFP

Note, the "Notes").

D. In conjunction with the foregoing transactions, Chossen Dairy, CFP, and UC

Farms executed a series of continuing security agreements in favor of Wells Fargo that

covered much of the personal and intangible property utilized and produced in

connection with the dairy farming business, including rights to payment, farm products,

livestock, crops, inventory, accounts, and the proceeds and products thereof. More

specifically, Cnossen Dairy executed the following security agreements: (1) Continuing

Security Agreement: Rights to Payment, (2) Security Agreement: Equipment, (3)

Security Agreement: Livestock, and (4) Security Agreement: Crops (collectively, the

"CD Security Agreements"). Paragraph 2 of each of the CD Security Agreements

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provides for cross-collateralization of all present and future financial obligations owed

by Cnossen Dairy to Wells Fargo.

Likewise, CFP executed a series of security agreements in favor of Wells Fargo E.

to secure CFP's indebtedness under the CFP Credit Agreement and the CFP Note

(collectively, the "CFP Security Agreements"). The CFP Security Agreements

include: (1) Continuing Security Agreement: Inventory, (2) Security Agreement:

Livestock, (3) Security Agreement: Crops, (4) Continuing Security Agreement: Rights

to Payment and Inventory, and (5) Security Agreement: Equipment. Paragraph 2 of

each of the CFP Security Agreements cross-collateralizes CFP's financial obligations

and broadly secures all of CFP's present and future indebtedness to Wells Fargo.

F. Finally, UC Farms executed a series of security agreements in favor of Wells

Fargo to secure UC Farms' indebtedness under the UC Farms Credit Agreement and

UC Farms Note (collectively, the "UC Farms Security Agreements"). The UC Farms

Security Agreements include: (1) Continuing Security Agreement: Rights to Payment

and Inventory, and (2) Security Agreement: Equipment. Paragraph 2 of each of the UC

Farms Security Agreements cross-collateralizes UC Farms' financial obligations and

broadly secures all of UC Farms' present and future indebtedness to Wells Fargo.

G. Wells Fargo asserts a perfected security interests arising from the CD Security

Agreements, CFP Security Agreements, and UC Farms Security Agreements

(collectively, the "Security Agreements") by virtue of filed UCC-1 financing

statements.

H. Cnossen Dairy executed two Continuing Guaranties in favor of Wells Fargo;

one dated March 28, 2007 to secure the indebtedness of CFP up to the original principal

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amount of the CFP Note—\$1,500,000 plus interest, related costs, and collection fees,

and a second dated July 15, 2008 to secure UC Farms' indebtedness up to \$500,000

(collectively, the "CD Guaranties"). As continuing guaranties, the CD Guaranties

apply to all past, present, and future indebtedness of CFP and UC Farms.

I. CFP likewise executed two Continuing Guaranties in favor of Wells Fargo; one

dated December 15, 2009 to guarantee Cnossen Dairy's debts to Wells Fargo up to the

sum of \$25,000,000, and one dated July 15, 2008 to secure UC Farms' indebtedness up

to \$500,000 (collectively, the "CFP Guaranties"). Thus, under the CD Guaranties and

the CFP Guaranties, each entity is liable for the other's indebtedness to Wells Fargo.

J. Further, UC Farms executed a Continuing Guaranty securing Cnossen Dairy's

debt obligations to Wells Fargo up to \$25,000,000 (the "UC Farms Guaranty"). The

UC Farms Guaranty provides that UC Farms unconditionally guaranteed and promised

to pay any and all of Cnossen Dairy's debts to Wells Fargo. The scope of the UC

Farms Guaranty appears comprehensive, and "includes any and all advances, debts,

obligations and liabilities of [Cnossen Dairy] ... now or hereafter made..." up to the

sum of \$25,000,000. Taken together with the CD Guaranty of CFP's debt obligations,

the broad scope of the UC Farms Guaranty arguably renders UC Farms liable for the

total indebtedness of both Cnossen Dairy and CFP to Wells Fargo.

5. All loan obligations under the Notes matured on July 5, 2010. However, Wells

Fargo extended the CD Notes and CFP Notes' maturity (but not the obligations of UC Farms)

until September 5, 2010, at which time the Notes matured, and their terms were not subsequently

extended. By letter dated November 2, 2010, Wells Fargo made demand for the aggregate

amount of the obligations owing by Cnossen Dairy and CFP under the Credit Agreements and

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the Notes, which Cnossen Dairy did not have funds on hand to pay. The UC Farms Note is the

subject of a pending arbitration action.

6. Pursuant to the terms of the Credit Agreements, Notes, and Security

Agreements, and the related guaranties of Debtor and certain non-debtor individuals and

affiliates as joint-and-several obligors and borrowers, and Wells Fargo, as lender (such loan and

security agreements are collectively hereafter referred to as the "Pre-Petition Loan Agreements"

and such loan facilities are hereafter referred to as the "Pre-Petition Loan Facilities"), Wells

Fargo asserts a perfected security interest in all, or substantially all, of the Debtor's farm

products (including livestock, farm products, feed and the milk and other products thereof),

equipment, accounts, commodity margin accounts, deposit accounts, chattel paper, instruments,

promissory notes, documents, general intangibles, payment intangibles, software, letter of credit

rights, healthcare insurance receivables and other rights to payment, inventory, work in process,

warehouse receipts and other documents evidencing goods owned or acquired by the Debtor, and

the proceeds of the foregoing, existing or later acquired (collectively, the "Pre-Petition

Collateral") to secure all obligations owing to Wells Fargo under the Pre-Petition Loan Facilities

and otherwise. The cash proceeds of the Pre-Petition Collateral owned by the Debtor of

whatever kind or nature – including currency, drafts, electronic fund transfers and debits, checks,

drafts and other cash equivalents – is referred to herein as the "Cash Collateral."

7. The Pre-Petition Loan Facilities provide the general working capital for the

Debtor's and its affiliates' businesses. The outstanding amount of the Debtor's collective

indebtedness to Wells Fargo is alleged to be at least the sum of approximately \$21,616,713.64 as

of the Petition Date (the "Pre-Petition Indebtedness"). Cnossen Dairy contends the aggregate

fair market value of the Pre-Petition Collateral exceeds the amount of the Pre-Petition

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Indebtedness. The Debtor is not aware of any creditor other than Wells Fargo having an interest

in the Debtor's Cash Collateral. However, the Debtor does have other secured obligations to

Hartford Life and Agri-Access secured by real estate and to certain equipment lenders.

8. Cnossen Dairy was anticipating its monthly milk check to be deposited into its

operating account on or about November 15, 2010. Given the status of the Pre-Petition

Indebtedness, Wells Fargo refused to provide adequate assurances that it would not offset the

milk proceeds once deposited into the bank account. The milk check was expected to exceed

\$1,000,000.00 and, without which, Chossen Dairy would be unable to fund its monthly operating

expenses.

CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE DAIRY AND USE OF CASH COLLATERAL

9. This proceeding was initiated in to order to assure that the milk proceeds would

not be taken by Wells Fargo. On or about November 15, 2010, the milk check was deposited

into Chossen Dairy's operating account in the amount of approximately \$1,250,000.00. In

conjunction with the Debtor-in-Possession's obligations, those funds are being transferred into

the newly established debtor-in-possession account ("DIP Account"). Upon notice of Debtor's

Chapter 11 filing, Wells Fargo instituted an administrative freeze of Debtor's operating account.

Although it has allowed some checks written post-petition to be paid, other checks have been

returned without payment.

10. Cnossen Dairy needs the immediate use of the milk proceeds in order to make

payroll, to buy feed, and to also clear checks written to pay bills and which were issued on its

account prior to the account being frozen by Wells Fargo. Cnossen Dairy will continue to need

the use of its future milk checks to continue the upkeep of its dairy operations.

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11. Cnossen Dairy's assets, primarily in the form of milk cows, require the constant

use of funds in order to retain their current value. Unless Debtor is able to utilize its revenue, its

assets will rapidly deteriorate in value and its ongoing operations will be threatened.

12. Cnossen Dairy alleges that unless it is allowed the immediate use of Wells

Fargo's cash collateral, they Dairy will suffer immediate and irreparable harm.

13. Prior to the filing of this Motion, the Debtor and Wells Fargo have negotiated

toward an agreement for the use of cash collateral. Although some minor revisions remain to be

made, attached is Exhibit A is a draft of an interim order for cash collateral usage that, in large

part, reflects an agreement between the parties.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Cnossen Dairy prays that it be authorized

the immediate use of cash collateral on an interim basis and on final hearing the permanent use

of cash collateral as well as such other and further relief to which it may show it may justly be

entitled.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

J. BENNETT WHITE, P.C.

Post Office Box 7339

Tyler, Texas 75711

Telephone: 903-509-5000

Telecopier: 903-509-5094

J. BENNETT WHITE

Demettalluts

State Bar No. 21309800

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing document was filed electronically. As such, this document was served on all interested parties deemed to have consented to electronic service. Pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9013, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5, and Loc. R. Bankr. P. 9007-1(e), all other interested parties not deemed to have consented to electronic service were served with a true and correct copy of the foregoing, unless noted otherwise below, by first class mail on this date, **November 18, 2010**. Those served by means other than electronic are listed in the attached mailing matrix.

J. BENNETT WHITE

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